



# The Bible Reaches Africa

**Big Idea:** God transforms people in Africa when Christians show Jesus' love to them.

#9

**Missionary Focus:** Samuel Morris and Johanna Veenstra

## Students Will:

### Know

- God miraculously delivered Kaboo (Samuel Morris) from his captors.
- Many Americans were inspired to become missionaries through Samuel Morris' example.
- Johanna Veenstra reached people in Nigeria with the Gospel by meeting their needs.
- Africa has 1,000 languages.
- New Testament Structure & Authors: 8 Letters to Everyone* strengthen the faith of Christians everywhere.

### Feel

- Grief at the injustices that people like Kaboo suffer.
- Compassion for the needs of people who don't yet know Jesus.
- Energized to have a part in bringing the news of Jesus to Africa.

### Do

- Participate in an object lesson on the nature of light and darkness.
- Pray for the physical and spiritual needs of the people of Africa.
- Share the light of Jesus with someone this week.



## Pray for Wisdom

*Father, Your heart beats strongly for the people in Africa. You grieve for the physical and spiritual needs of people throughout that continent. Give me and my students the ability to care as You care for all people everywhere.*

*Lord, give me the willingness to say "yes" to whatever you have for me, even as I point the children to the best life available to anyone anywhere, the life surrendered to You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## Lesson Summary

For several hundred years Africa was known as "The Dark Continent." It was given this name by people who were intrigued by its mysteries and perplexed by its challenges. From a missions perspective, reaching the 650 million people who live on the world's second largest continent has always presented some large obstacles. Some of these obstacles have included communication (there are over 1,000 African languages), the dangers of the wild (animals, heat, and disease), and incredible cultural differences.

So little used to be known about Africa that the rest of the world truly was in the dark about this continent. Spiritually speaking, the vast majority of Africans have been in great darkness, as is

everyone who has not been exposed to the light of God's Son. All who live without Jesus Christ are in darkness, no matter where they live.

In this lesson, students will see that Jesus has the power to shine in the darkest places. The story of Samuel Morris will provide an unforgettable reminder that God sees and cares about all people everywhere, and that the Gospel can penetrate even in the remotest of places. The example of Johanna Veenstra, a missionary to Nigeria in the early part of the twentieth century, will show students that there are many ways to let their light shine for Jesus.

# The Bible Reaches Africa



## ANIMALS OF AFRICA

Cross out the animal that does not belong.



## FACTS ABOUT AFRICA

- \* Africa has over 50 nations and 1,000 languages!
- \* The world's longest river (the Nile River) and the largest desert (the Sahara Desert) are in Africa.

treasure the Bible and read it regularly.

- *God's Great, Wonderful Word* (Mark Chase, 1999) Theme song for Unit B—challenges students to share the Good News about Jesus with others.

## Memorize Bible Verse

Use your favorite Bible translation to teach and rehearse:

**Topic:** Go to People

**Reference:** Matthew 28:19

### Suggested Memory Activity:

#### Musical Memory Chairs

Line the students up with all their chairs in a row facing you. Inform the students that you will soon be pointing to one of them to finish the verse where you leave off. Then read the verse aloud to them several times. As you do, have your eyes moving from student to student to build anticipation of being chosen. Then begin to stop the verse close to the end and point to a student to finish it, almost as if the music is stopping in musical chairs. If the student finishes it correctly, he or she moves up in the line one chair, trading places with the student ahead. If the student finishes the verse incorrectly, he or she goes to the end of the line. Each time leave more and more of the verse unfinished. If the students take too much time, give them a reasonable count and then send them to the end of the line.

### Alternate Passage:

Psalm 19:7-14 (learned through the entire unit).

## Pray for Power

*Pray* that your students would have the heart of Jesus when they look at people on the streets and in cars and in homes. Ask that God would give them a heart of compassion to recognize the pain people carry around in their hearts.

Talk about Africa and the people who live there.  
Have fun crossing out the animal that does not belong.



## Sing with Joy

### Special Songs

Two songs have been created to reinforce the learner targets for this unit. Lyrics and music are printed in this Teacher's Guide.

- *Treasure Expedition* (Mark Chase, 1998) Theme song for Level 2—motivates students to



### Spark Interest

Tell students to notice how much light is in the room. Turn off the lights. (Ideally, the room should be fairly dark, but not too dark for students to still be able to see each other.) Ask if there is any light in the room now. If some say that the light is gone, point out that there must be some light or else you wouldn't be able to see each other.

Have them close their eyes, allowing them to describe how much darker things look. Finally, have them place their hands over their closed eyes. Note that their vision is getting darker and darker. With their hands still over their closed eyes, turn on the lights. On the count of three, have students open their eyes suddenly and look up at the light. Allow students to describe how bright the light seems after having been in such darkness.


### Explore Scripture


You will need a world globe.

Have a volunteer try to find Africa on the globe. Point to Liberia, a small country on the west central coast. Read or tell in your own words this story of Samuel Morris:

More than 100 years ago in a land that we call Liberia lived a boy named Kaboo. He was a very important boy because his father was the chief of his tribe. This meant Kaboo was a prince. How many of you boys would like to be a prince? Well, being a prince in Kaboo's tribe was not always a good thing. Tribes would often fight wars with each other. The losing tribe had to pay the chief of the winning tribe whatever he asked. If the losing tribe could not afford to make the payment, the chief of the losing tribe must let the winning tribe take his son, the

## LIBERIA





Prince Kaboo saw a bright light. It blinded the men who were beating him. A voice said, "Get up and run." Kaboo ran, but he didn't run home. Why not?

- Kaboo didn't want to put his family in danger.
- Kaboo was mad at his family.
- Kaboo's family didn't want him anymore.

The first time, God saved Kaboo from:

his sins

lions

his enemies

The second time, God saved Kaboo from:

snakes

his sins

a storm

DID YOU KNOW?

- \* Kaboo was named Samuel (Sammy) Morris by his missionary teacher, Miss Knolls.
- \* When Sammy died, many people decided to become missionaries to Africa.

## NIGERIA

Johanna Veenstra cared very much about the Kuteb people of Nigeria. Draw a line under the things she did to show Jesus' love to them.

She told them that Jesus died for them.


She had snowball fights with their children.

She helped them when they were sick.

She started a school.

She helped the ladies who were having babies.

She gave them tickets to baseball games.



After hearing about Samuel Morris and Johanna Veenstra, talk about other people who serve God in Africa.

prince. Cruel things would be done to the prince until payment could be made. One day, Kaboo's tribe did lose a war. His father was not able to pay all that the other chief asked, so the enemy tribe took Kaboo as ransom.

Terrible things were done to Kaboo. Every day he was whipped, and every day the whippings got worse. Kaboo's back was so bloody

that it looked like it would never heal. Kaboo finally became so weak that he could not stand or sit. On that day, his cruel enemies had to lean him against a tree to beat him. Suddenly, a brilliant light flashed around him. All of his enemies were blinded by the light. A voice from above told Kaboo to get up and run. Amazingly, his body felt strong again and he

## PRAY FOR AFRICA!

- \* There are more African churches now than ever before, but many people still worship evil spirits and false gods.

**Pray that the Holy Spirit will help African Christians share the Good News.**

- \* Many Africans suffer from hunger.

**Pray that God will bless their farms and their land.**

- \* Much fighting takes place because powerful groups try to control other people.

**Pray that African leaders will look to Jesus as their Ruler.**



Many people's lives are spiritually empty. They live with the pain of sin rather than God's love. This week, what can you do to help someone see the light of Jesus' love?

**Be a helper and encourager and use opportunities to share about Jesus.**

What might you say to somebody to help them see God's pathway to life? **Say how God helped me in a situation.**

**Go to People**  
**Matthew 28:19**



*The people of Africa have many needs. Spend time discussing the needs listed above and praying for them.*

began to run. He ran and ran until he found a hollow tree. There he hid until dark. Where could he go? For many days and nights he was alone in the jungle, hiding in the daylight and running at night. It was too dangerous to travel by day. He might be seen. But the night held the dangers of leopards, crocodiles, and poisonous snakes. How would he make it safely

through the jungle? Then another amazing thing happened. In the darkness of the night, the mysterious light shone around him. Night after night it led him through the jungle until he reached a coffee plantation (farm). There Kaboo met some people who told him about Jesus. He began to understand that it was God who rescued him with a bright light

and led him through the dark jungle. As Christian people shared God's Word with him, Kaboo learned that Jesus wanted to save him again and lead him out of the darkness of sin. Gladly, Kaboo received Jesus as his Savior. He was given the new name of Sammy Morris. For the rest of his life, Sammy served God and told everyone who would listen to him about Jesus, the Lord of light!

Have students turn to page 33 in the workbook and do the animal activity before going over Facts About Africa. Then direct students' attention to page 34 and help them fill in the information about Kaboo.

Call their attention back to the globe to find Nigeria (five countries to the east of Liberia). After sharing with them the story of Johanna Veenstra (see below), use the sidebar on page 34 to review her story.

Two years after Sammy Morris (Kaboo) died, Johanna Veenstra was born. She cared so much about the people in Africa that she wanted to go to them. She studied and trained hard. She learned how to be a midwife (someone who helps women deliver their babies). In 1920, Johanna's dream finally came true. She was on her way to Nigeria! She faced many difficulties on her way there, but when she finally arrived she worked hard to serve the Kuteb people.

Johanna knew that one way to get the Kuteb people interested in the Good News about Jesus was to find many ways to show the love of Jesus to them. She opened a medical clinic and a school. She looked for ways to help their farming. Before long, the Kuteb people knew that Johanna loved them. They loved her, too, and grew to love Jesus because of her.

### Inspire Action

*You will need: five or six large-based candles (or one oil lamp), matches.*

Direct students to page 35 of their workbooks. After discussing Africa's prayer needs as a class, turn off the lights once more to

create a semi-dark environment. Place candles on a table and have students gather around. Instruct them not to touch the table (for everyone's safety).

Light one candle (or the lamp, keeping the flame low), explaining that the Good News about Jesus is like a light to a dark world. Point out that Jesus also wants us to carry the light of His love to the rest of the world, to places like Africa. Ask students to think of ways that we can help others see the light. Encourage responses that suggest ways we can help people want to hear more about Jesus, whether in our neighborhoods or the darkest corner of Africa. Each time an appropriate suggestion is made, light another candle (or turn up the wick of the lamp). Note how attractive the warm glow is. The brighter the light, the more people will be drawn to it. Allow time (and sufficient light) for students to do HeartBeat on page 35 of their workbooks.

### Pray for Life-Change

Remind the children of the daring commitment of Kaboo (Samuel Morris) and Johanna Veenstra. Highlight just how hard life can be when a person is separated from knowing God.

**Pray** with your students, that they would consider the people of Africa—that God would do something new for people still waiting to hear about God.

Ask God to consider each child in the class and the plans He has for them in fulfilling His kingdom; and pray that no one would miss the good plan He has in store for them.

**Pray** for the personal requests of students. Encourage children to voice their prayer concerns. Be sure to pray for each one.



✓ I have read Daniel 9.

Daniel understood from the Scripture that the Jewish captivity in Babylon would last 70 years (9:2).

After Daniel learned that the Jews would return to Jerusalem, he (9:3):  
 \_\_\_packed his bags ✓prayed \_\_\_complained ✓fasted

TRUE FALSE After the disaster, Israel turned from its sins (9:13).

While he was still praying, Gabriel visited Daniel (9:21).

Before the Anointed one (Messiah) comes, how many "sevens" must take place (9:25)? 62 / 7 69



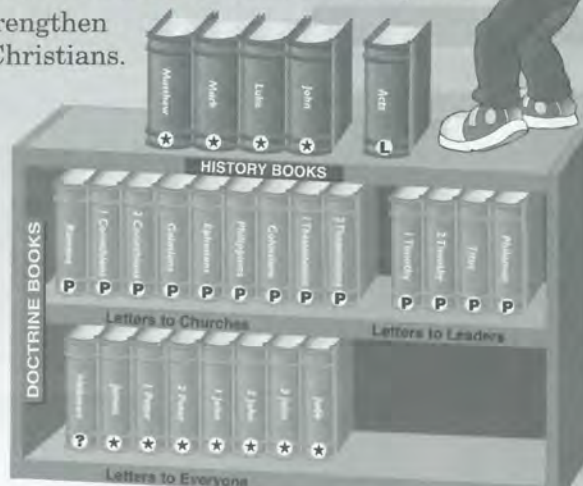
Other church leaders sent 8 Letters to Everyone.

These letters strengthen the faith of all Christians.

(Say the name of each book and the person who wrote it aloud.)

#### Author Key

- ★ = name of book and author is the same
- L = written by Luke
- P = written by Paul
- ? = nobody knows who wrote this book



Encourage students to complete this page before the next lesson.

### N.T. Structure & Authors

This section will help your students understand how the New Testament books fit together. They will also identify who wrote each New Testament book.



## 1. Snack Idea

(10-15 minutes)

Serve graham crackers with honey butter (or frosting or apple butter), having the kids place their own raisin outline of the continent of Africa on the topping.

## 2. "Hidden People" Profile

Most people would have fun handing out hundred-dollar bills to poor people on the street. Yet, every Christian has the opportunity to do something infinitely more valuable than handing out money. Through the message of the Gospel, we have the opportunity to distribute eternal life! Jesus had a passion to spread His grace and told us to preach the Gospel to all people (Mark 16:15).

The World Changers packet gives you an opportunity to open your students' eyes to this great need. It includes profiles about three hidden (unreached) people groups. Encourage students to participate in activities from the profiles, to help them comprehend Jesus' love for people everywhere. Suggestion: Focus on one people group during lessons 1-4, another during lessons 5-8, and the third in lessons 9-12.

## 3. Kaboo Finds God

(20-30 minutes)

Reenact the story of Kaboo including his capture, trials, escape, and conversion. Parts include Kaboo, his father the king, the enemy king, his captors, and the angel who rescued him. To include more students, have them replay the drama.

## 4. Life in Africa Video ("Roots")

(15-30 minutes)

From a local library, borrow the first video of the famous television series "Roots" by Alex Haley. Show an early clip of the movie capturing tribal life in Africa to give the children an idea of what life might have been like for Kaboo. ("Roots" has rich illustrations of injustice and sin against the Africans that are suitable, but it also has many violent scenes not suitable for showing to children of this age.)

## 5. Storytelling: The Life of Kaboo

(20-25 minutes)

After reading the story of Kaboo to the children, allow one or several of them to retell the story to the class. Be prepared to prompt them through the story with leading questions such as: Where did Kaboo live? What was his father's job? What happened to his tribe? Etc.

## Teacher Tip

The seeds you plant in a student now may come to fruition in a day, a month, or even years later. Simply and faithfully plant the seeds in the name of Jesus and leave the growth to Him.

## Supply Checklist

### General Supplies:

- Bibles, student workbooks
- pencils, pens, markers
- paper, glue, tape
- "Hidden People" Profiles

### Explore Scripture

- a world globe

### Inspire Action:

- several large candles (or an oil lamp), matches